The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

**NO VEIL HIDES THE CHEERFUL SMILE OF THIS BEAUTY QUEEN OF MODERN CAIRO**

The zippered sports costume and unveiled smile of this modern daughter of the Nile strongly contrast with the traditional fashions of the Near East. Her interest in basketball is likewise a marked departure from old ways. This alert Cairene was chosen to be "Miss A.U.C." by the students of the American University at Cairo (Bulletin No. 5).

Bulletin No. 1, January 19, 1948

# Aruba Is West Indies Success Story in Oil

ARUBA, small but vital parcel of Netherlands overseas territory, is rapidly realizing its dream of home rule and political separation from near-by Curaçao, the capital island of the Netherlands West Indies.

Petroleum makes tiny, arid Aruba important. The nearly waterless Caribbean isle is a "body of land entirely surrounded by oil." Although Aruba has no oil wells of its own, the "black gold" flows islandward in a steady line of shallow-draft tankers from the rich Maracaibo fields of the near-by Venezuelan mainland.

## American and Dutch Refineries Dot Island

Aruba contains the world's largest refinery and cracking plant. In transforming the thick, gummy substance into fuel, lubricants, and chemicals for industry and transport, the island has been changed within two decades from a sleepy, unproductive Caribbean outpost to a busy and prosperous industrial center. This West Indies pin point has assumed the giant job of speeding to market the lubricants on which modern industry turns.

Around the refineries of the big American company at St. Nicolaas and the smaller Dutch operation near the island's capital, Oranjestad, have grown up forests of chimneys and "farms" of storage tanks.

Linked by a horizontal network of pipelines, the installations form a mixed sky line of slim, smoking towers and flat, rounded tank units, shaped like huge pressed cheeses. The normally white and silver accents of these works wore a camouflage of battle gray after a German submarine attack during World War II.

Most of Aruba's nearly 40,000 inhabitants are connected in some way or another with the oil industry. Many technicians and workers have come from all parts of the world. Forty-odd nationalities are represented among the more than 6,000 employees of the United States refinery.

## Many Tongues Spoken

The American settlement resembles a small Kansas or Ohio town. The company not only provides homes for its workers, but also has built recreational, medical, and educational facilities.

Dutch is the official language, but Spanish, English, and French also are spoken. Native Arubans, of basic Carib–Indian stock, have an international patois of their own called Papiamento.

Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao make up the Netherlands' "A B C" group off the Venezuelan coast. This cluster, together with three smaller Netherlands islands (Saba, St. Eustatius, and half of St. Martin) 500 miles to the northeast, has been governed since 1634 from Curaçao, largest and most populous of the possessions. Before that date the six islands belonged to Spain.

Aruba is only a little larger in area than the District of Columbia. A barren coral and lava speck, it was hampered for centuries in its develop-

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SERVICES ÉCONOMIQUES DE L'INDO-CHINE

**SAMPANS ON THE MUDDY MEKONG ARE LIFELONG HOMES FOR MANY OF PNOMPENH'S PEOPLE**

Swaying gangplanks connect the thatch-roofed houseboats with shore. Cambodia, which Pnompenh serves as capital and port, relies on its navigable and silt-heavy river for transport and fertility much as Egypt depends on the Nile. Between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the South China Sea, the Mekong flows through fertile Cochin China, another of the five sections of French Indochina (Bulletin No. 3).

Bulletin No. 2, January 19, 1948

# Developments Affect Two English Towns

RESIDENTS of two widely separated southern England towns were affected by recent developments. The village of Castle Combe, 90 miles west of London, was sold at auction. Brighton, England's queen of seaside resorts, has turned down proposals that it unite with four smaller English Channel coast communities.

Castle Combe grew almost literally out of near-by stone quarries. Its old gabled stone houses (illustration, next page) with their mullioned windows are even roofed with stone. Since its founding, this Wiltshire village had belonged to the lord of the manor, the best known of whom was Sir John Fastolf in the 15th century, caricatured in Shakespeare's Falstaff. He had married the widow of Sir Stephen Scrope, whose family had owned the estate for 200 years.

## Castle Combe Once a Thriving Market Town

Castle Combe's once flourishing textile mills are gone, and its population is greatly reduced. It owed its industrial prosperity largely to power from the river flooding swiftly through the richly wooded valley.

This was once a thriving market town, where Wiltshire farmers sold their produce at the market cross in the village square. The upper story of the market house was used as a sort of guild hall, a place of village meetings and banquets. It was razed a century ago when one of the village's three converging thoroughfares was enlarged.

Sir John Fastolf's manor was spacious enough to house several branches of the Scrope family. The building was frequently remodeled and little of the original house remains. The richly grained oak wainscoting of the old entrance hall came from the banquet hall in the home of John Aubrey, famous antiquary.

The oldest tomb in the village church of St. Andrew is dated 1270 and bears an effigy in complete chain armor and blazoned shield. The church was rebuilt a century ago on the same site.

## King George IV, as Young Man, Popularized Brighton

Brighton, England's Atlantic City, began two centuries of seaside supremacy with the publication of a book by a physician in 1750, and the visits of a news-making prince. The book was by a Dr. Russell, proclaiming the health-giving properties of salt water. With remarkable rapidity, sea-bathing leaped into favor.

The prince, later King George IV of England, built Brighton's pavilion as a royal residence. He was only 21 when he first went there in 1783 to visit his uncle, the Duke of Cumberland. Where the prince led, the fashionable young court circle followed. Brighton became the seaside center of English aristocracy, of nobles and notables.

The growing guest list included virtually all English men of letters—Johnson, Lamb, Hazlitt, Macaulay, Thackeray, Dickens, and many others. Brighton supplied settings—and Sussex, scenery—for novels and stories.

With the coming of railways and automobiles, London's fashionable

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ment through lack of fresh water (illustration, below) and the high winds that blow away most of the topsoil.

The island shows the effects of the continuous trade winds from the northeast. The branches and foliage of divi-divi trees, for example, extend far out on one side, like a woman's long hair streaming behind her.

NOTE: The islands of the Netherlands West Indies may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "*Carib* Cruises the West Indies," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1948; "Curaçao and Aruba on Guard," February, 1943; "Saba, Crater Treasure of the Indies," November, 1940; and "Southward Ho! in the 'Alice'," March, 1938*. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 9, 1942, "Curious Curaçao, Arid Aruba Get U. S. Protection."

W. ROBERT MOORE

**THE WELL IS A FRIENDLY GATHERING PLACE ON THE THIRSTY ISLES OF ARUBA AND CURAÇAO**

The water is often brackish, but with rainfall averaging only 15 to 20 inches a year it is most welcome. On the wind-swept hill stand camouflaged tents of the United States troops sent to guard the oil refineries of these Netherlands West Indies islands during World War II.

Bulletin No. 3, January 19, 1948

# Strife Still Rules in French Indochina

POLITICAL discord and actual fighting are still the order of the day in French Indochina, where months ago the French government offered the equivalent of dominion status to three of its dependencies.

France's southeast-Asia possession is a conglomeration of tropical states with Oriental accents in potentates and palaces, in gilded temples and dancing girls, together with hard-working rice farmers, tin miners, and rubber tappers.

## Monarchies Border Siam

The country is made up of five units—Tonkin, Annam, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Laos. The first three—the states invited to set up their own government within the French Union—stretch along the east coast, from southern China to the tip of the southeast-Asia peninsula.

Cambodia and Laos, already recognized as more or less autonomous monarchies, are the western units, bordering Siam.

Local history and physically varied regional backgrounds combine to give the Indochinese states entirely different personalities. The total population is nearly 25,000,000.

About three of every four persons are Annamese. Living in the eastern regions from northern Tonkin to southern Cochin China, this group is linked to the Chinese by blood ties, culture, and habits of living.

Even among themselves the Annamese present differences. The simple, somber clothing of the north, for example, contrasts sharply with the southern people's multicolored costumes and gay silken scarfs.

## Holds Mysterious Ruins

The Kingdom of Cambodia has an Indian flavor, mixed with touches from neighboring Siam. Its people are generally darker and have less-slanting eyes than the Annamese.

Cambodia is famous for the mysterious ruins of its old Khmer civilization. The remarkable and numerous buildings of Angkor, featuring careful stonework and intricate, highly artistic sculptures, were discovered in the jungles in 1860. This great stone city was built about a thousand years ago.

The forest-and-mountain region of Laos (illustration, next page), to the north, is even more remote. Most of the Laotians belong to the same racial stock as the Siamese. The men wear wide trousers and long jackets. The typical costume of the women, who coil their smooth black hair into a bun, is a wide, striped skirt and a soft scarf.

French Indochina has been France's most valuable overseas possession. Lushly fertile in spots, it is one of the leading rice producers of the Orient. Big rubber, tea, and coffee plantations have been developed. The country is larger than Texas and contains valuable resources in minerals and forest products.

In Hanoi and Saigon, the capital and the chief port, respectively, handsome public buildings, sidewalk cafes, and Paris styles are like bits

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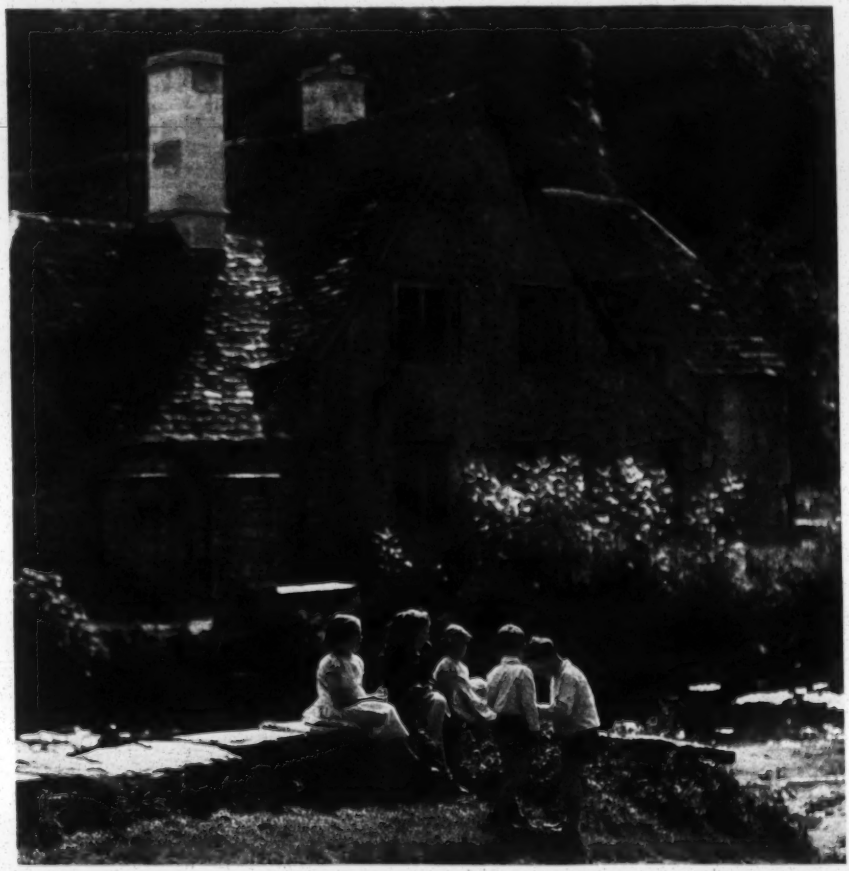
seaside resort became a "trippers' paradise" only an hour away. It was known as "London-by-the-Sea."

The resort's prime health contribution is the cool, dry, invigorating air that invites summer vacationists. They also are attracted by the historic countryside, with its varied seascape and its landscape of low-lying plain, South Downs, rolling Weald, and a forest ridge to the north.

Salt-making and fishing once occupied most of the small ports of Sussex. From the Weald came the iron that made Sussex the early center of England's iron industry, when great oak forests fired the furnaces and supplied the shipbuilders.

Today Sussex is a pastoral land of farmers and grazers. The loss of the oak forests turned the people to raising sheep for wool. The flint mines of Sussex armed Neolithic man and later the Celtic builders of the burial mounds. The long Roman occupation is recalled by remnants of a Roman road, fine mosaic paving of a villa, and a fortress.

NOTE: Brighton and Castle Combe may be located on the Society's Modern Pilgrim's Map of the British Isles.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

CHILDREN PLAY ACROSS A STREAM FROM ONE OF CASTLE COMBE'S DREAMY STONE COTTAGES

Bulletin No. 4, January 19, 1948

# The Geography of the Dry-Goods Counter

THE musty, woolly, exotic smell of bolts of cloth piled high behind the dry-goods counter, and the cool feel of the silks and linens spread out for customers somehow bring to mind far, strange places. This is fitting because textiles come from all over the world and more often than not they bear the names of the points where they originated.

An extensive dry-goods gazetteer could be made up by cataloging all places which gave their names to textiles. The list would cover the world from Tulle, France, to Shantung, China.

## Many French Towns on List

Many cloth names with geographic backgrounds are not easily recognized. Often they were borrowed from other languages long ago and gradually took phonetic English spellings. For example, a sheer, plain-woven linen or cotton material, born in and named for Laon, France, became "laune" and finally "lawn" after moving to England.

Other French towns which gave their names to original fabrics include Creton (cretonne), Lille (lisle), Daoulas (dowlas), Cambrai (cambric), Marseille (marseilles), and Tulle.

Sometimes the change in name involved the use of a third country as an intermediary. Baldachin, or baldaquin, a fabric of gold and silk, seems to have little connection with Baghdad, the city whose artisans developed it. But the cloth came to England by way of Italy and the Italian name for Baghdad is Baldacco.

The Italian city of Genoa gave the world "jean" and "jeans." French was the intermediary tongue here; Genoa in French is "Gênes." (Another story has it that jean cloth originated in Jaen, a textile city in Moorish Spain.) "Denim" comes from Nîmes, France. Originally it was called serge de Nîmes (serge of Nîmes). The last two words were borrowed and anglicized as the cloth became well known in England.

## Damask from Damascus

Duffel, Belgian city near Antwerp, first spun the tough fabric used for making bags. Not only is the bag itself now called a "duffel," but in the United States the contents (camping equipment, military supplies, etc.) are also described by the same word.

From the Middle East came muslin, mousseline de soie, and mousseline de laine (all from Mosul, Iraq, by way of France). Egypt's seaport Damietta gave the world dimity. Damask (illustration, next page) came from Damascus, Syria.

China supplied dry-goods counters with Shantung silk, named for the Province of Shantung; nankeen, or nankin (from Nanking, the present-day capital), and Canton flannel.

India's port of Calicut exported the first cloth of the type later to be called calico. Surat, India, produced surah, a silk, and Madras named madras, bright-colored silk or cotton material. In north India, Kashmir's flocks provided the wool from which cashmere shawls were first made.

of France transported to the tropics. Pnompenh, river capital of Cambodia (illustration, inside cover), and other cities remain largely native in appearance.

NOTE: French Indochina is shown on the Society's map of Asia and Adjacent Areas, and the map of Southeast Asia.

For additional information, see "By Motor Trail Across French Indo-China," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1935; "Along the Old Mandarin Road of Indo-China," August, 1931; and "Four Faces of Siva," September, 1928.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 10, 1947, "Cambodia, Cochin China Undergo Changes;" and "French Indochina Cities Witness Fighting," January 27, 1947.

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

**BURDENS DANGLING FROM CARRYING POLES, A LAOTIAN FAMILY PAUSES ON A VILLAGE STREET**

**A country of villages, Laos borders Siam for 900 miles along the Mekong. This neat town, Savannakhet, stands on the great river of French Indochina and is connected with the Annam coast by road. Flexible carrying poles, bending with each stride, are easier on the shoulder than stiff ones.**

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Bulletin No. 5, January 19, 1948

# Cosmopolitan Cairo Is Arabs' Greatest City

AS a colorful gateway between East and West, Cairo has grown until it holds the dual distinction of being the largest city in Africa and the world's greatest Arab community. Dispatches from the Egyptian capital report that disturbances have followed the decision of the United Nations to partition Egypt's neighbor to the east, Palestine.

In reality, Cairo is two cities: the old Cairo of noisy bazaars, and dimly lighted streets following their crooked routes beneath overhanging balconies; and a spacious new city built on European lines.

## Native Costumes Make Bright Color Display

Modern Cairo has wide boulevards, impressive government buildings, and European-style hotels. Its homes are surrounded by walled gardens where tall, feathery palm trees cast shadows over roses and flaming hibiscus bushes. Varying the low lines of flat roofs (illustration, next page), slim minarets—shaded pink or brown—point skyward. Domes mark the location of a large number of mosques, the great majority of Cairo's residents being Moslems. "Unbelievers" (non-Moslems) are allowed to enter most of these places of worship.

In the streets of this city of one and a third million people, men in European costume brush past Arabs in red tarbooshes and flowing robes, white-gowned Sudanese from the interior, and an occasional veiled woman with a baby astride her shoulders.

The varied colors of the Moslems' turbans indicate sect divisions, families, and such distinctions as the fact that the wearer has made a pilgrimage to Mecca. A regulation turban is supposed to be seven times the length of the wearer's head, or the entire length of his body.

Many of the people who crowd Cairo's streets look as though they might be characters who have stepped from the pages of "Arabian Nights." Lemonade sellers carry glittering brass urns, boys ride donkeys adorned with red saddles and silver necklaces, and newsboys, topped with black skullcaps, sell papers printed in various languages.

## Canal of Pre-Christian Era Transported Goods

During World War II, American troops brought a new accent to the babel of tongues traditional in Cairo. For recreation they liked to ride out into the desert on camels to see the mysterious Sphinx and the amazing tombs of Egypt's early kings—the historic pyramids.

Cairo's location near the border between Africa and Asia had made it an important commercial center long before the Suez Canal was opened in 1869. Slant-sailed feluccas carried merchandise along the Nile which was connected by canal with the Red Sea hundreds of years before Christ was born. The canal occasionally silted up, but was frequently reopened. Darius the Great and the Ptolemy rulers of Egypt were responsible for this repair work.

Egypt's dependence on supplies from outside the country developed the nation's foreign commerce. Much of the country's extensive area is desert

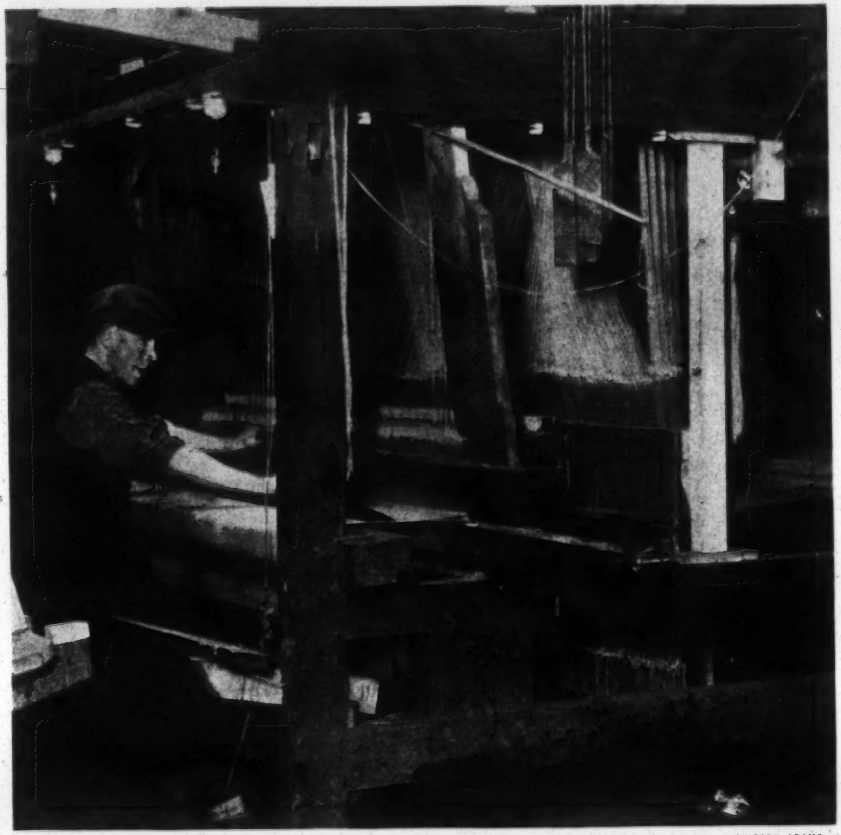
Paisley, Scotland, early in the 19th century, began imitating cashmere shawls. Its name gradually supplanted the original as Kashmir's trade was usurped.

British Isles names famous in textiles have naturally entered the language unchanged. But since it gave its name to worsted, the Norfolk, England, town has changed its spelling to Worstead. Another interesting change was Scottish "tweed" from English "twill," an error which has geographical justification since much of the suit cloth is spun in towns along the Tweed River. The near-by Cheviot Hills lent their name to a particular type of tweed.

Balbriggan, Ireland, gave the world balbriggan, a cotton knitted fabric for hosiery, and the Island of Jersey supplied the knitted cloth for making tight-fitting jackets.

NOTE: Places which have given their names to fabrics may be located on the Society's World Map.

For additional information on fabrics, see "Many Looms Idle in Tweed-Weaving Hebrides," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 21, 1947; "Irish Linen Reappears in Time for Christmas," December 2, 1946; and "Silk Survives Competition from War-Born Synthetics," April 15, 1946.



CLIFTON ADAMS

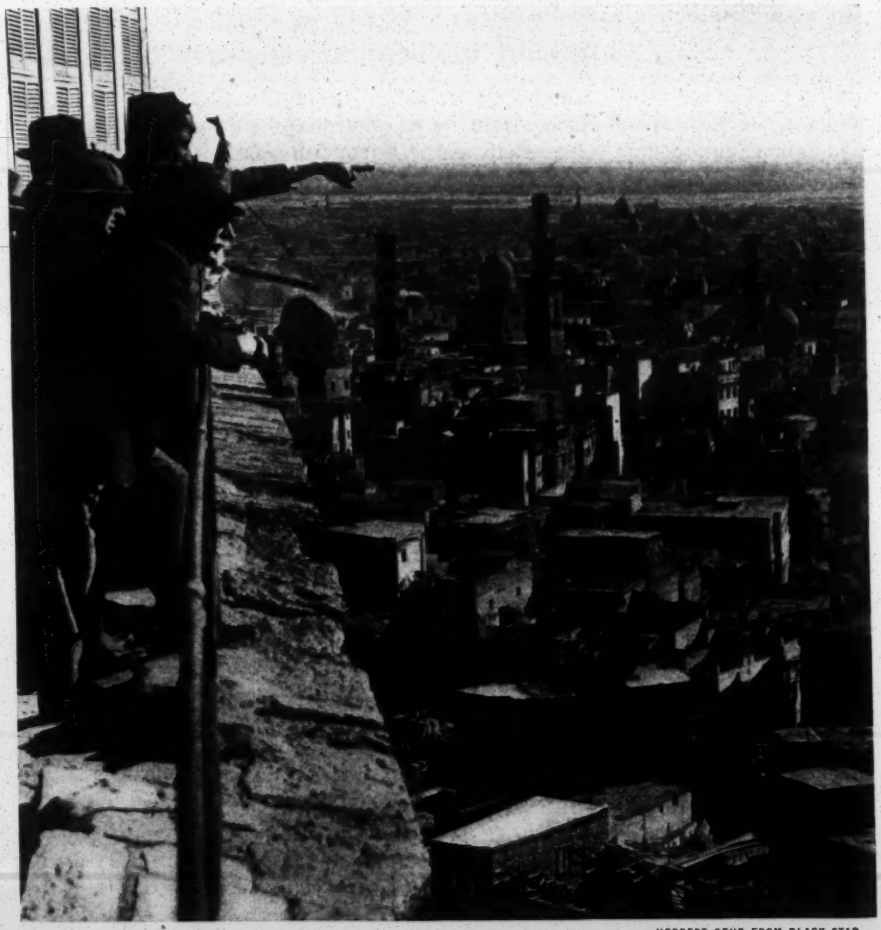
**DAMASK, BORN IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA, IS HERE WOVEN ON A HAND LOOM IN BELFAST, EIRE, FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES**

land. There is less than half an acre of arable land for each inhabitant of the nation, and little of that is cultivated.

Among Cairo's schools of various nationalities is the American University situated in the heart of the city, near the Nile. On its athletic field girl students flaunt local tradition by playing tennis and basketball (illustration, cover) in shorts and shirts—a far cry from the veiled and all-enveloping costumes of their mothers and grandmothers.

NOTE: Cairo may be located on the Society's map of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

For further information, see "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1946; "American Alma Maters in the Near East," August, 1945*; "Red Cross Girl Overseas," December, 1944; "By Felucca Down the Nile," April, 1940; and "Change Comes to Bible Lands," December, 1938.



HERBERT GEHR FROM BLACK STAR

**CAIRO'S DOMES AND MINARETS ACCENT THE FLAT-ROOFED SCENE FROM CITADEL TO RIVER**

Viewed from the citadel which the Sultan Saladin built in the 12th and 13th centuries on a spur of the Mokattam Hills, Cairo presents a sea of flat roofs stretching west to the Nile and the desert. Like bubbles rising to its surface, innumerable domes point out the city's mosques. It is said that a Moslem can worship in a different one every day for a year, with a reserve for starting a new year.